

Page 3 1 HEARING re Omnibus Hearing 2 3 HEARING re Doc. #1471 Notice Of Agenda 4 HEARING re Doc. #1429 Motion to Authorize / Debtors Motion 5 6 for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing the Debtors to Further 7 Extend the Coverage Period of Certain Insurance Policies and 8 (II) Granting Related Relief 9 10 HEARING re Doc. #1315 Motion for Omnibus Objection to Claim 11 (s) / Debtors Twenty-Third Omnibus Objection (Non-Substantive) to Certain Claims Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 502 and 12 13 Fed. R. Bankr, P. 3007 (No Liability) 14 HEARING re Doc. #1303 (2004) Application For FRBP 2004 15 16 Examination /Debtors Request For Entry of an Order Pursuant 17 to 11 U.S.C. 105 and Fed. R. Bankr. P. Rule 2004 (I) 18 Authorizing the Examination of Digital Currency Group, In. 19 and DCG International Investments, Ltd. and (II) Granting 20 Related Relief 21 22 23 24 25

Page 4 1 HEARING re Doc. #1304 (Seal: 2004) Motion to File Under Seal 2 /Debtors Motion for Authority to Redact and File Certain 3 Information Under Seal in Connection with the Genesis 4 Debtors Request for Entry of an Order Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 5 105 and Fed. R. Bankr. P. Rule 2004 Authorizing the 6 Examination of Digital Currency Group, Inc. and DCG 7 International Investments, Ltd. (related document(s)1303) 8 9 HEARING re Adversary Proceeding 24-01312 Genesis Global 10 Capital, LLC v. Digital Currency Group, Inc. 11 Pre-Trial Conference 12 13 HEARING re Adversary Proceeding 24-01312 Genesis Global 14 Capital, LLC v. Digital Currency Group, Inc. 15 Notice of Agenda for Hearing to be Held March 19, 2024, at 16 11:00 A.M. (Prevailing Eastern Time) (related 17 document(s) 1471, 1303, 1315, 1429) 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 Transcribed by: Sonya Ledanski Hyde

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Pq 7 of 49 Page 7 1 PROCEEDINGS 2 THE COURT: All right. The next matter that is on is Genesis Global Holdco, LLC, and so let me find out who is 3 here on behalf of the debtor. 4 5 MR. BAREFOOT: Good morning, Your Honor. Luke 6 Barefoot from Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, for the 7 debtors, and I'm joined by my colleagues, Deandra Fike, Brad 8 Lenox and Christian Ribeiro. 9 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, and let me 10 find out who's here on behalf of the committee. 11 MR. WEST: Good morning, Your Honor. Colin West, 12 of White & Case, for the official committee. I'm joined by 13 Phil Abelson, and I will figure out how to turn my video on 14 shortly. 15 THE COURT: All right, and on behalf of the ad hoc 16 group? 17 MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, Brian Rosen, Proskauer 18 Rose, on behalf of the ad hoc group, and I am joined by Mr. 19 Jordan Sazant. 20 THE COURT: All right, and on behalf of DCG? 21 MR. SIDDIQUI: Your Honor, Furqaan Siddiqui, Weil 22 Gotshal & Manges, on behalf of DCG. I'm joined today by my 23 colleague, Caroline Zalka. 24 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, and I know 25 today's agenda is not quite as expansive as the agenda we

had yesterday when I saw you nice folks. So rather than go through the long list of appearances, a lot of them are listed only, at the point, I'll ask if there's anybody else who's here who wishes to enter an appearance for today's hearing.

MR. MARGOLIN: Good morning, Your Honor. Jeffrey Margolin, Hughes Hubbard & Reed, on behalf of Gemini Trust Company, LLC.

THE COURT: All right. Good morning. Anyone else? All right. So with that, give me about 30 seconds to move one stack of papers to the side and grab the binder that was helpfully provided, and I'll turn it over to debtors' counsel to move through the agenda at Docket 1471. So thank you for that.

Counsel?

MR. BAREFOOT: Your Honor, Luke Barefoot from Cleary Gottlieb, for the debtors. Before -- we do have a largely uncontested agenda today. Before turning to the agenda, I did just briefly want to update the court and parties in interest that the debtors did successfully conclude negotiations on the definitive documentation for the settlement with Gemini Trust Company and last evening filed the motion pursuant to Rule 9019 for approval of that settlement. The hearing date that was set down for that was April 18th of this year.

Page 9 1 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. I 2 appreciate the update, as I'm sure many people do who are 3 listening in. Thank you. MR. BAREFOOT: So unless Your Honor prefers 4 5 otherwise, we'd propose to just follow the order that was 6 laid out in the revised agenda for the hearing. 7 THE COURT: All right. That's just fine with me. 8 Oh, I see Mr. Rosen has a hand raised. One, I'd like to 9 express how impressed I am that you know how to do that, and 10 two, I'm happy to hear from you before we launch into the 11 agenda. 12 MR. ROSEN: Yeah. Thank you, Your Honor. I 13 apologize for interrupting. I thought we were trying to go 14 for April 16th. 15 Mr. Barefoot, was that changed? 16 MR. BAREFOOT: You are correct, and I misspoke. I 17 apologize. It is April 16th, and thank you, Mr. Rosen, for 18 correcting me. 19 MR. ROSEN: Thanks, Luke. 20 THE COURT: All right. We've got a lot of dates, 21 a lot of things going on. So thank you for working together 22 to get that figured out, and so back to you, Mr. Barefoot. MR. BAREFOOT: Your Honor, I'll turn the podium 23 24 over to my colleague, Ms. Fike, to present the insurance 25 extension motion.

Pg 10 of 49 Page 10 1 THE COURT: All right, please. 2 MS. FIKE: Good morning, Your Honor. Deandra Fike, of Cleary Gottlieb, for the debtors. I'll be 3 4 presenting Item 1 on the uncontested portion of the agenda 5 today, which corresponds to the debtors' motion for entry of 6 an order authorizing the debtors to further extend the 7 coverage period of certain insurance policies and granting 8 related relief. This is filed at Docket Number 1429 and 9 should be found in Your Honor's binder at Tab 8. 10 THE COURT: Yes, I've got it. Thanks. 11 MS. FIKE: Okay. Great. Before moving on to the 12 substance, I'd like to request to move into evidence the 13 declaration of Andrew Sullivan, which was attached to the 14 motion as Exhibit D as his direct testimony in support of 15 the motion. 16 THE COURT: All right. Anyone wish to be heard on 17 that request? All right. I'm happy to receive that 18 declaration in support of the motion. 19 MS. FIKE: Thank you, Your Honor. And Mr. 20 Sullivan is on the line, should the court have any 21 questions. 22 THE COURT: All right. I appreciate his presence. 23 Thank you.

MS. FIKE: As for the merits, Your Honor, as

stated in the motion, and as the court may recall, the

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debtors have a series of both primary and excess directors' and officers' insurance policies, all of which are claims-made policies, meaning the beneficiaries of such policies must file any claims during the coverage period in order to access the coverage provided by the policies.

Though originally the policies were set to expire in June of 2023, the debtors previously received this court's approval on similar motions to extend the coverage period on these insurance policies through March 28th of this year, under the belief that this would be sufficient time for the debtors to emerge from Chapter 11.

Given, however, as Your Honor noted, that we had closing arguments for the hearing on confirmation of the debtors' plan just yesterday, we are seeking through this motion an additional two-month extension through May 28th of 2024 of the coverage period, at which point the debtors are hopeful they will indeed have reached emergence. The total cost for this extension is approximately \$206,000, and the debtors will additionally receive a pro rata refund to the extent that they emerge prior to the May 28, 2024 extension date. And as noted, the motion is proceeding uncontested.

So with that, Your Honor, unless you have any further questions, we would respectfully request entry of the proposed order.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. Any

Pg 12 of 49 Page 12 1 party wish to be heard on this motion, which is at Docket 2 1429? 3 Hearing no response, I am happy to grant the motion. I find it appropriate under the facts and 4 5 circumstances of the case and consistent with applicable law and just generally a good idea. So the motion is granted, 7 and we can move on to this item. 8 MS. FIKE: Thank you very much, Your Honor. We'll 9 submit the order. I'll now cede the virtual podium to my 10 colleague for the next agenda item. 11 MR. LENOX: Good morning, Your Honor. Brad Lenox, 12 of Cleary Gottlieb, for the debtors. The second --13 THE COURT: Good morning. 14 MR. LENOX: Oh, sorry. The second uncontested 15 item on today's agenda is the debtors' 23rd omnibus 16 objection to certain claims which is going forward today 17 solely with respect to Claim Numbers 84, 261, 262, 337 and Schedule Number 3.1.0244, each of which is identified on 18 19 Exhibit 1 to the proposed order. 20 With respect to the remainder of the claims 21 identified in the motion -- in the claims objection, that 22 has been adjourned to the April 16th omnibus hearing. Before proceeding to the substance, I'd like to first move 23 into evidence the declaration of Paul Kinealy of Alvarez & 24

Marsal, which was attached to the claims objection as

Exhibit B.

THE COURT: All right. Any party wish to be heard on that request? All right. Hearing no response. I'm happy to receive that as evidence in support of the motion.

MR. LENOX: Thank you, Your Honor. And Mr.

Kinealy is on the line should Your Honor have any further questions. Each of the claims identified on Exhibit 1 to the proposed order assert liabilities against the debtor arising out of lending agreements executed between these claimants and the debtors.

The debtors have determined, in consultation with their advisors, that there also exists outstanding obligations owed by these claimants to the debtors pursuant to these same lending agreements. In each case, setoff of these mutually owing obligations would result in extinguishment of any liabilities of the debtors and a net claim owed to the debtors by these applicable claimants.

The debtors and their advisors analyzed the valuation of these claimants' obligations to the debtors in the postpetition period, which in any circumstance is the relevant period here, and regardless of whether the petition date or another date more contemporary filing of the objection is used, the result is the same, that no liability to the debtors would exist.

Further, I want to note that this claims objection

does not seek authority to actually effectuate any setoff nor collect on the amounts that would be owed to the debtors as a result, and as set forth in the pleadings, the debtors reserve all rights with respect to that.

In sum, because the debtors are not liable with respect to each of these claims as a result of outstanding mutually owing obligations between the parties consistent with Rule 3007, Section 506 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the claims procedure order, the debtors respectfully request that the objection be sustained and that each of the claims I listed at the outset be disallowed in full and expunged from the claims register.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. Let me ask if anybody wishes to be heard on this claim objection as to the specific claims that are teed up for today. All right. The court notes that there's no response.

I will grant the claim objection as to the matter specifically on for today for all the reasons highlighted here this morning and set forth more fully in the claims objection.

I do note, and I won't spend the time to go -- the standard for claims objections, I've done it before in prior cases, and it's set forth in the objection itself at Docket 1315, starting on Page 8 of the motion, which also talks about the applicable setoff standards. So given the review

of the books and records and based on the information in supporting declaration, in short, that the debtors have determined the amounts owed by the debtors to these no liability setoff claimants and the amounts owed by those claimants to the debtors, and also determining that when you net all that out, results in a full satisfaction of the claims that are identified here. So I agree, and those claims are expunged. Thank you, and I appreciate the declarant being available. MR. LENOX: Of course, Your Honor, and thank you very much. We will submit a proposed order. THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. Next up? MR. LENOX: Your Honor, my colleague, Christian Ribeiro, will be handling the next agenda item. THE COURT: All right. Counsel? MR. RIBEIRO: Good morning, Your Honor. Christian Ribeiro, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, counsel for the debtors. We're here today before the court on items -- I forget what items are on the agenda, but they're Tab Numbers 1 through 4 in your hearing binder, and that's the rule 2004 motion, as well as the attendant sealing motion that we filed with the Rule 2004 motion. So before we get into the Rule 2004 motion, I'd like to start with the sealing motion

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THE COURT: Please.

MR. RIBEIRO: -- which is ECF number 1304 and Tab 2 of the hearing binder. The sealing motion seeks a court order authorizing the debtors to file the Rule 2004 motion under seal. It was filed initially under seal, so we're seeking a further court order to approve that filing.

Filed with the Rule 2004 motion is a document request which includes confidential and commercially sensitive information. This information is subject to a confidentiality agreement between the debtors and DCG that requires the debtors to maintain the confidentiality of such information. And since the filing of the sealing motion, however, the debtors have also filed a revised proposed order with respect to the Rule 2004 motion which includes a revised document request containing the same information.

So if the court grants the sealing motion, we would like the court's order granting this motion to include authorization for the debtors to file that revised proposed order under seal as well. And then, of course, once the order is entered, that would be under seal as well. This motion is uncontested, and we're not aware of any formal or informal responses that were made to this request.

So unless Your Honor has any questions, we respectfully request that the court enter the proposed order, which we will revise to include within the scope the

revised proposed order that we filed.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. Any party that wishes to be heard on the sealing motion? All right. So let me ask, Counsel, there's a general description of what's under seal. I understand it's confidential business information. I assume the intention is to file a -- if it has already been done, a public redacted version of the papers.

MR. RIBEIRO: Correct. That's what was filed with the Rule 2004 motion, as well as the revised proposed order that was filed in a redacted form. We have provided chambers with a copy of the unredacted order.

THE COURT: All right. Great. I thought so. I just wanted to confirm, and I appreciate that. I know that that's an extra bit of work. In the interest of the transparency of public proceedings, it's serving a valuable purpose.

So with that, I'm happy to grant the request for sealing and just make sure that for all the reasons you set forth in the motion, confidential business information, very standard stuff, like some other sealing issues we've had earlier in the case.

What I'd ask is you had mentioned other things that were filed and you wanted to make sure they were covered. Just make sure the proposed order that is

submitted has language that would do that. Excuse me, and you could do that one of two ways. You could specifically identify pleadings, or you could say, or other pleadings filed in connection with this motion, however you want to do it, and that way we have everything covered.

MR. RIBEIRO: Sounds good, Your Honor. Thank you. So we're moving on now to the Rule 2004 motion. That's at ECF 1303, Tab Number 1 on Your Honor's binder. And we also have the debtors' reply filed at 1371, which is Tab 4 of your hearing binder.

By this motion, the debtors are seeking order compelling DCG and DCGI together, I'll call them the DCG parties, to respond to certain document and information requests which are set forth in further detail in the motion. And as referenced, we filed a revised proposed order. That's at ECF 1487. And we sent that to Your Honor, to chambers this morning.

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. RIBEIRO: We filed the revised proposed order to reflect the resolution of certain categories of documents and information requests that were initially made by the debtors that have since been satisfied. That's the know your customer, anti-money laundering, OFAC and sanctions compliance-related requests. After struggling a bit to obtain this information through regular means, we included

these requests within the scope of our Rule 2004 motion, which does seek a broader set of documents. However, today we are happy to report that we have received the information required by the debtors to satisfy their risk-based compliance obligations, of course, without waiving our rights if we need further information. So we revised the proposed order and the request attached as Exhibit (indiscernible) motion to strike the requests related to those requests. THE COURT: All right. I do have the revised notice of revised proposed order. That's at Docket 1487. And I did see the blackline version, and it sounds like this is again memorializing the agreed upon resolution part of the 2004 application. Let me just ask if DCG wants to be heard at all in connection with this specific notice of revised proposed order. MR. SIDDIQUI: Yes, Your Honor. Furqaan Siddiqui, on behalf of DCG. We agree with Mr. Ribeiro. understand, per communications and per what's been stated on the record today, that the KYC information has been received by the debtors. So we have nothing further on that. We do take issue with the remaining requests under the proposed order (indiscernible) --THE COURT: Yeah. We'll get to, yeah. MR. SIDDIQUI: Yeah.

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THE COURT: All right. So this is -- I'm going to grant this. I'm going to grant proposed relief that's memorialized in the order that is submitted at Docket 1487. And that leaves other issues that are the subject of things. And I'll turn back to debtors' counsel to tee that up. I understand, if I'm understanding it correctly, the thing that's agreed to is all the know your own customer and other related requirements that need to be satisfied in terms of receipt of the money and those that are not resolved are essentially getting information about the relationship between DCG and the counterparty that supplied the funds. MR. RIBEIRO: Right. That's correct. And just to clarify a little bit, the revised proposed order that we submitted just revises the proposed order to eliminate the requests related to the KYC. So there's no proposed order to enter with respect to an agreement with DCG. It's just reflecting that we're deleting from our motion, from the scope of our motion a request for those documents. THE COURT: Okay. I got you. All right. MR. RIBEIRO: So the proposed order will just be granting this motion. THE COURT: Because they've been voluntarily supplied. MR. RIBEIRO: Right. Exactly. So continuing on, Your Honor, a brief summary of the events leading up to

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where we are. As Your Honor is well aware, DCG is the debtors --

THE COURT: Well, I can probably spare you that.

So let me do that. So as I understand the bidding, and this would be helpful to get sort of the most up to date thinking of folks on this. I understand that you all want -- I guess my question is, what is the scope of what you want, because I understand the theory behind your request. There is a question of how far you can use that theory in terms of the expanse of what you can ask for. And so that's why I appreciate your thinking about what the debtor has specifically asked for and specifically decided not to ask for and where you draw that line.

MR. RIBEIRO: Sure. So I think our request could be thought of in two categories. Perhaps there's the first category, which is the loan documentation and any related agreements that the debtors would like to see. We think it's very important to obtain this information and to see those documents.

DCG, being the debtors' largest borrower, we'd like to understand DCG's financial information, see what they've agreed to with this third-party lender, understand what restrictions have been imposed on DCG and what might impact DCG's ability to repay us on the multitude of obligations that they owe us, including the \$1.1 billion

note that's still outstanding and DCG owes the debtors. So there's that category, and we do think there's a second category that the debtors have requested and that we're entitled to. That information seeks sort of documents, communications relating to that transaction.

So maybe not the loan documentation specifically, any security documents, all of that. But we're seeking any correspondence between DCG and that third-party lender which will help us evaluate any potential causes of actions that we might have against DCG related to this financing arrangement. So that's how we think about the request, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. All right. What else would you like to tell me before I hear from DCG? Or you want to, as Judge Chapman used to say, keep your powder dry for the moment?

MR. RIBEIRO: Yeah. I'll just add that we think it's really important to obtain this information. As fiduciary of the estate, the debtors have an obligation to fully evaluate the nature and scope and the full extent of the estate's assets. The receivables we have from DCG are important property interests that the debtors have, and so with that, we'll rest.

THE COURT: All right. All right. So let me hear from DCG.

MR. SIDDIQUI: Yeah. Good morning, Your Honor.

Furqaan Siddiqui, again, Weil Gotshal & Manges, on behalf of DCG. So, Your Honor, as Christian stated, I'd like to clarify just one point. There is one obligation, and it is the promissory note that is due in eight years. The other two referenced obligations are, in fact highly disputed claims.

One is, I believe they've asserted the \$33 million claim against DCG arising out of the Three Arrows obligations and \$27 million of late fees and enforcement costs. Both of these are highly disputed and are subject to pending proceedings, one which is before Your Honor in this court. So if these documents are being sought in connection with those claims, we believe that the documents should be sought in those proceedings. With respect to the promissory note, you know, as noted, we don't see the relevance --

THE COURT: So that's the -- I mean, you're sort of invoking the pending proceedings rule.

MR. SIDDIQUI: Right. Right. Now, again, Your
Honor, the debtors have sort of also stated that they need
to see this in connection with the promissory note due in
eight years. We just don't see the relevance of our current
loan obligation with a third party for amounts owed in eight
years. And we've told the debtors the salient terms of the
debt, that we have secured debt. We've told them how much

it is. The proceeds are in the debtors' bank account.

We've shared information about our lender for the KYC

purposes which Mr. Ribeiro indicated the debtors have

received.

Now, notwithstanding the fact that we don't think it's relevant, in order to avoid this hearing today, we've repeatedly reached out over the course of the last month, over four times via email and numerous calls. And the only reason I raised that is because I believe in the reply the debtors indicated that we give off an illusion of compliance, which I believe is unfounded. But we finally got a response from the debtors on Thursday, and we've been working towards a resolution. As of last night, we thought we had a resolution. We agreed to provide the debtors with our loan agreements -- our loan agreement and the related security agreement to the debtors on a PEO basis. And then as of the last minute after 9:00 p.m. last night, debtors' counsel came back with a new ask to disseminate these documents with the UCC and the ad hoc group.

So while we don't see the relevance for the debtor to have these documents to begin with, because our obligation to the debtor, our undisputed obligation to the debtor is eight years from now, in order to avoid the hearing today, we were willing to share it. We still -- we certainly --

THE COURT: What would you be willing to share it
on? Sort of attorneys' eyes only, professionals' eyes only?

MR. SIDDIQUI: Yeah, that's right, Your Honor.

The documents have confidentiality provisions. And also our
lender is very sensitive about having these contractual
agreements sort of disseminated widely with other folks.

And they agreed in this instance to let the debtors see it
on a PEO basis. And while we're fine with that, we really
don't see the need or reason for anyone else to see it. You

THE COURT: I guess I'm asking about for the UCC and ad hoc whether you'd be willing to let just the professionals see it. I can understand there are a lot of parties when you start looking at all the customers. And so question is whether your client would agree to have just those lawyers see it. And again, everybody reserves their rights to fight about it in the future.

But I think I've said this before, you all know disputes are much harder to resolve about information sharing when it's a theoretical rather than an actual dispute. And so the first rule of thumb in judge's school is to say get out the information you can get out, and let's see where we are. We don't have any particular wisdom of Solomon on that, but other than get the information out and then that tends to narrow the scope of disputes. So would

know, it's unclear --

your client be willing to give the UCC and ad hoc counsel,
professionals that information?

MR. SIDDIQUI: Your Honor, I think on balance, when you look at the relevance for the debtors' stated purpose of assessing our creditworthiness in eight years and what we're providing them and the sensitivity around it, I don't think we're amenable to sharing it with the UCC or the ad hoc group. For what the debtors state they need it for, I think debtors' counsel is more than capable of assessing the loan agreement and making that determination and letting their constituents know. However, we don't believe that is necessary to provide this loan agreement to three separate law firms for the debtors' stated purposes.

THE COURT: All right. Anything else from DCG?

MR. SIDDIQUI: Nothing, Your Honor. I guess I

would note that we understand that the UCC and the ad hoc

group filed joinders this morning. And at this point, Your

Honor, we've been trying to come to a resolution. We hope

that Your Honor would see that providing this to the debtors

on a PEO basis hopefully is sufficient for what the debtors

ask, and that's all.

THE COURT: All right. Let me circle back to debtors' counsel. Oh, you're on mute. Joys of COVID.

MR. RIBEIRO: Oh, the beauty.

THE COURT: And I see, I see Mr. Rosen. I see

hand's up. I'm going to hear from debtors and then I'll circle the virtual group and hear from the committee and the ad hoc group.

MR. RIBEIRO: Sure. Yeah. Just to respond to a couple of points made by Mr. Siddiqui, first, he essentially admits that there's one obligation that DCG has that matters, which is the \$1.1 billion note. Of course, he distinguishes the other two obligations, now invoking for the first time the pending proceeding rule.

THE COURT: Yeah. I didn't see that cited in the papers. It did occur to me because I had that come up in other cases, although it was a very factually distinguishable kind of circumstance. So let me -- while we're talking about it, let's nail that down. Is your current request focused on the promissory note as opposed to those other two that are subject of other proceedings?

MR. RIBEIRO: Right. We think it is because it's seeking to evaluate the DCG's creditworthiness, and so while their issues might be adjacent, we don't think it implicates the pending proceeding rule because the information -- primarily because the information sought is not to aid the debtors in bringing the other proceedings that they've brought.

I would note that courts looking at whether to apply the pending proceeding rule, look at the primary

purpose of the Rule 2004 examination, and whether it's to further the administration of the bankruptcy case or to aid in pending litigation. And here it's clear that the debtors' primary purpose is in aid of the administration of the bankruptcy case. And in fact, Your Honor weighed in on this issue in In re Cambridge Analytica, which is at 600 B.R. 750. And I think in that case, Your Honor did distinguish quite well in two situations. There was one situation where a third party purchased a claim against the debtor, thereby becoming a creditor of the debtor, and then sought to obtain Rule 2004 discovery against one of the debtors, which was a codefendant in separate litigation.

And you just distinguished that request made by other creditors of the debtor in that case for similar documents, because in distinguishing that request, Your Honor determined that their Rule 2004 motion was filed to further their interest as creditors of the debtors. They had meaningful involvement in the case since its inception, since the case's inception, and that the Rule 2004 request was relevant to their status as creditors, not in any --

THE COURT: So let me back up for a second. The thing that sometimes can frustrate me with the pending proceeding rule, and Cambridge Analytica was a sort of nice, clear example of what you shouldn't do. But when there's more than one potential way of getting the information,

discovery is a very practical set of disputes, whether you call it 2004 or actual discovery in a proceeding. So my thought is, if the information, if it's going to be shared one way or the other, one should sort of moot out the other. So my thought is, I don't know if there are pending requests for this kind of information as to the \$33 million, the \$27 million obligations in those other proceedings, or there's an intent to do that, or if they're asked for and those proceedings, there's not going to be an objection because the pending proceeding rule sometimes can be very much a stand on ceremony kind of problem.

So this is sort of the tail end of the dog, as I understand it, among the parties and what they're really fighting about. But while we're talking about it, is there anything you can tell me about that in the context of the other proceedings and whether it's going to come up anyway?

MR. RIBEIRO: So no, there's no pending requests that are identical or similar to these requests that we're making now. And just to expand further, we don't see how obtaining the loan documentation between DCG and this third-party lender would aid the debtors in this litigation in respect either of the 3(a)(c) indemnification claim or the arbitration proceeding. And again, there are no requests that are similar to these requests being made now.

THE COURT: All right. Anything else that you

wanted to address before I hear from the committee and the ad hoc group?

MR. RIBEIRO: Sure. Just a couple more points, just to clarify a bit on the status of the pre-motion discussions. I think Mr. Siddiqui is being a little unfair in characterizing our discussions. He reached out to me on Sunday and I called him immediately back. We've been discussing --

THE COURT: Well, I'll cut you off. Again, to quote "Hamilton," I'm not in the room where it happens, and I know that a judge's ability to understand the back and forth is exceedingly limited, and I've been on the wrong side of that in my former life, where some judge thought something that's was going on and it was completely different.

So I have learned not -- to avoid where I can trying to figure out what actually happens in those conversations. So, I mean, what I see is that there is a -- this motion has been pending for a while, and so I'm heartened to hear that some of the information that clearly should have been turned over has finally been turned over. It really shouldn't take a motion to deal with that kind of stuff. The know your customer and other related regulatory information is pretty low hanging fruit for purposes of a Rule 2004. So I'm glad that that's resolved.

So, anything else, Counsel, before I hear from the other folks?

MR. RIBEIRO: Sure. Thank you, Your Honor. And just the last point we'll make is with respect to providing these documents to the committee and the ad hoc group on a professional eyes only basis. I think it's clear here that the committee and the ad hoc group have an interest in seeing this information. They are the beneficiaries as creditors of the debtors' estate, and we've been working hand in hand since the beginning of these cases, and especially throughout the plan confirmation process, to work together to reach a resolution on all the contested issues. And so we do think that they have an interest here, and that's why we're seeking to be able to share the documents that we receive on a professional eyes only basis.

THE COURT: All right. I will say I'm inclined to agree with you on that, but let me hear from the committee.

MR. WEST: Thank you, Your Honor. Colin West, of White & Case, for the official committee of unsecured creditors. I think I'll be very brief. We think the information requested is plainly relevant to assessing the value of what we believe is one of the debtors' largest assets and for the reasons Mr. Ribeiro stated. The committee representing unsecured creditors obviously has an interest in knowing that information. We did file a

joinder, a very brief joinder this morning in which we stated our willingness to receive the information requested on a professionals' eyes only basis. We think that's appropriate and we would, of course, observe all appropriate confidentiality obligations. But we do think we need the information to understand what value is in the debtors' estate and what value will ultimately be distributed to creditors. And that's all I have, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right, and let me hear from the ad hoc group.

MR. ROSEN: Thank you, Your Honor. Brian Rosen, Proskauer Rosen, on behalf of the ad hoc group. Just a few items in addition. One, I think there was one other possibility or issue outstanding, not just on the \$33 million or the \$27 million, but also the issue asserted with respect to the conversion of obligations to cash that were paid. And I think that is sort of folded into all of those points.

We also filed a joinder, Your Honor, and what we tried to do there was not just piggyback to what was being said by the debtors and the UCC, but also the fact that we took the court's guidance with respect to trying to see if we could have conversations, real conversations, in order to move this process forward and to see if there was some possibility of resolution of what the outstanding issues are

with DCG, the ad hoc group, the UCC and the debtors. And what we said in our joinder, Your Honor, is this information is important for us to be able to formulate a proposal or to see if we can get from here to there. And as we said in there, what is the art of the possible? Because if there are provisions in that loan documentation which make it totally unavailable to any or the debtors -- excuse me, the DCG assets or the ability to make payments, we think it's important to know what that is so that we can formulate whatever proposal is on a going forward basis.

So we did, like the UCC, state in our joinder that we would be willing to accept this on professional eyes only basis in order to move that process forward. And we would hope that we would be able to get whatever the documents and information are being provided to the debtors would similarly come along to Proskauer Rose and to White & Case. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Any other comments from any other party? All right. So here's where I am. The issues that are off the table are off the table. I will tell you that I think that they were entirely appropriate requests and in fact, essential for the debtors to get that information so that they didn't have legal exposure.

As for the -- let's start with the promissory note. It's an obligation of the estate. So the standard is

that you look for -- I mean, I always describe it to people who aren't bankruptcy experts, who come in in smaller cases, that you're looking at the assets and liabilities of the estate, and this is an asset. And if the asset has more or less value by virtue of the involvement of this other party, that's relevant to know. And I will say this is distinct when you think about these things along a spectrum, which is how 2004 sort of plays out. You've got Cambridge Analytica over here, and the fact an entity might have ways of doing various things in terms of raising funds to pay obligations that are all behind the cloak of corporateness. But when this is in circumstance where that third party is the one that transmitted the funds.

So essentially, you sort of, as they say in trial practice, open the door, right, to saying, well, who are they? What are their involvement? What's the relationship? DCG would have a better argument if it was just money coming from DCG, and the debtor said, where did the money come from? You still have a 2004 argument, but this third party provided the funds. And so that's not something the debtors required. It's something that DCG decided to do for its own business reasons, which it's entitled to do. And I'm not casting any aspersions, but it does open the door. And so I think for that obligation, I think the loan obligations and related security agreement are perfectly fair game. I think

that's probably why there were discussions about resolving that.

I understand DCG's reluctance to share this with any larger number of people than it is required to do so. But I think the committee and the UCC professionals, attorneys' eyes only, however you work that out, is entirely appropriate. I mean, we spent a bunch of time talking about the involvement. It's pretty clear that the UCC and the ad hoc committee have been involved, exceedingly involved, essentially involved. And in fact, I think I sort of tipped my hand the other day in talking about substantial contribution. In fact, even the U.S. trustee's office agreed about substantial contribution and frankly they're a tough sell on that issue.

So having sort of had that discussion the other day sort of shows that the UCC and the ad hoc group are really very much partners in trying to make this case work. So I think with professional eyes only, it's entirely appropriate. I entirely understand not wanting to share this with all the customers and nobody's asking for that. That seems like a bad idea that everyone agrees is a bad idea.

So as for the other two obligations, the \$33 million, the \$27 million, to the extent that there are similar issues about the assets and liabilities, I frankly

am inclined to reach the same conclusion. It's not quite as easy a sell in the sense that I don't understand there to be a third party who's sort of volunteered themselves to step into the fray. But it's still an asset and liability, an asset or liability of the debtors to determine things. So I think the agreements, relevant agreements would be appropriate.

As to the second category, documents and communications about the transactions, I'm not at this point inclined to grant those. I think there may come a time when somebody can identify why they would be relevant and I think we can revisit there. Let's first see the agreements and try to put the pieces together to understand what the contractual documents say and the implications on the estate and creditors. And if there's a live controversy, a live issue, I think I certainly am in much better position to figure out whether that 2004 request is appropriate.

So I'm not denying it. I'm pushing it to another date. So the first category, I think I side with the debtors completely. On the second category, I'm not ready to go there. I will make a note about the pending proceeding rules. I don't know that that doctrine was sort of briefed in the opposition that I got. I did think about it. There was sort of mention of -- I think I was waiting for it in the connection with one of the paragraphs and

discussions, but I think it was sort of raised in spirit.

But nobody's raised a particular argument as fleshed that

out to say, hey, they're asking for it here, and this is how

they're going to weaponize it here, and they couldn't get it

there or any of that.

I've heard generally, like, well, there's other proceedings. That generic comment doesn't get you the pending proceeding rule. You need to be more specific than that. And so, again, there is authority that you can ask for information on the same general set of financial transactions for different reasons and separate those out. And so I think a credible explanation has been provided here as to why the debtors and the estate need this information and why it's relevant. And I haven't been provided with anything that triggers the pending proceeding rule in a way that would bar that request. So that's my ruling.

So for the first request, loan documents, related agreements, yes, including for the professionals on the committee and the ad hoc group, and for all of the transactions that are discussed. But as for documents and communications relating to those transactions, I'm going to, whatever you want me to do, adjourn it, deny it without prejudice to reasserting it later. I don't think I have enough to go there. And again, I think it would be helpful to see the agreements and understand their significance

before going through that because I think saying documents and communications relating to could be exceedingly broad.

I do know 2004, there's lots of case law about it being a fishing expedition, but I think we're not there yet. And so if we get there, we get there. If we don't, we don't, and we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

So that's my ruling. I am happy to regale you all with the applicable legal standard on Rule 2004. It's all set forth in your papers. You're smart folks. You know it. I'm going to skip that part of it in the interest of compassion. But if there's any clarification anybody wants on any particular legal issue, I'm happy to give it. So with that, let me ask if there's anything else from the debtors on this 2004 application.

MR. RIBEIRO: No, Your Honor. We really appreciate it. We will revise the order, run that by opposing counsel and submit that to chambers.

THE COURT: All right. Anything else from DCG?

MR. SIDDIQUI: Yeah, Your Honor, just a couple of points. First, I just wanted to briefly clarify what I indicated, that there was one undisputed obligation. I was actually just trying to make allusion to the fact that out of the three bases, the promissory note is not subject to another pending proceeding.

THE COURT: Yeah, no, that's how I took it.

MR. SIDDIQUI: Fair enough. And then the other point is, with respect to the actual documents that are shared, we had agreed, or tentatively agreed yesterday evening to provide the debtors with the loan agreement and the security agreement. We would request that this court sort of clarify that that is what we would actually be providing to the UCC and the ad hoc group on a PEO basis.

We would like to avoid having to provide the entire closing set and confidential information and schedules, et cetera. If the debtors and the committee advisors need to see the loan agreement and the salient terms, they should be able to gather all that from the actual loan agreement and from the actual security agreement.

THE COURT: So I will say I'm going to plead the Fifth because I'm not qualified enough. I don't know the deal documents and I don't know the contract. I think you've seen by my ruling that this seems reasonable, this seems too far. So I think you can apply those principles. If the debtors have anything they want to chime in to advance this particular discussion.

But I don't think the parties' papers really did
that kind of deep dive in terms of this is in, this is out.

I don't know if an attachment to the contract is relevant or
not for what you all are doing. You all are in a much
better position to assess that. So I'll keep my nose out of

That's when courts are essentially throwing darts at dartboards. And it's not the kind of decision-making you should really want. But let me ask debtors' counsel if there's any comments you have on that that might help move things along. MR. RIBEIRO: Sure, Your Honor. What we're seeking is all the loan documentation and related agreements. I think it's important to have the full suite of documents because how else are we going to understand what we're seeking to understand if we don't have the relevant documents and all the related documents. And so I do think that's the loan documentation, security agreements, pledge documents, and I think that's consistent with Your Honor's ruling today. So that's all I have to say. THE COURT: All right. Anything else from DCG? MR. SIDDIQUI: Nothing else, Your Honor, aside from if they're seeking to understand the obligations, that would be in the loan agreement and the security agreement. THE COURT: Well, again, I understand clients don't like to share information like this, but I think it's appropriate under the standards. MR. SIDDIQUI: Your Honor, the debtors agreed to this last night. So I don't --THE COURT: Well, I know, but you didn't agree enough to make it go away today. So again, I'm not in the

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room where it happened. So I can't sort of betray the agreements because agreements are I give you this, but you dropped that. And so again, you don't want me mucking around with it, and when you reach agreements and you present them as agreements, then that's almost always you get the touchdown sign, which I'm happy to give. But if you talk and you don't care and it's in front of me, it's in front of me. So I don't know any other way to do it that would be successful. Anything from the committee? Anything else from the committee? Oh, you're on mute. MR. WEST: Sorry. No, Your Honor, nothing else from the committee. We'll work with the debtors and DCG and hopefully not have to raise any other issues with the court. THE COURT: All right. And last but not least, anything else from the ad hoc group? MR. ROSEN: Your Honor, just to reiterate what Mr. Ribeiro said, which is schedules and things like that are very, very important to understand the extent of any collateralization that might have been provided. So we'll take a look at everything that comes in, and to the extent there are any issues, we'll coordinate with the debtors and the UCC and bring them to the court's attention if

necessary. Thank you.

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on that that you revised based on today's proceedings. And with that, hearing nothing else from anyone else, we are adjourned. If you need --

MR. BAREFOOT: Your Honor?

THE COURT: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MR. BAREFOOT: I apologize. We have the pretrial conference in the adversary proceedings

THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry. Sorry. My apologies.

Not intending to kick you to the curb without handling anything we need to, so let's do that. That is a status item on the agenda. So that's the adversary complaint and actually has some overlap with the discussions we were just having, I guess. So let me hear from the debtors to start us off.

MR. BAREFOOT: Thank you, Your Honor. Luke
Barefoot, from Cleary Gottlieb, again, for the debtors.

This is the adversary proceeding captioned GGC v. DCG, and
it's Case Number 24-1312.

Your Honor, I'm pleased to report that through discussions with Weil Gotshal, we've reached agreement on a form of proposed scheduling order. And with Your Honor's permission, I'd just propose to briefly walk through the terms of that scheduling order and provide Your Honor with a little bit of context on the parties' thinking about the structure of that order and the gravamen of the complaint.

THE COURT: All right. Please.

MR. BAREFOOT: So, Your Honor, I believe this is our first appearance before you in this adversary proceeding, but as you may have heard from the context of the Rule 2004 discussion that we just had, the subject matter of the dispute is actually quite familiar to you. You may recall that in November of last year, the court approved the debtors' settlement with the liquidators of Three Arrows Capital. And in that settlement we allowed a claim in favor of the debtors' estate in the amount of \$33 million.

In the settlement agreement and order, we expressly reserved our rights to pursue claims against DCG for payment on that \$33 million claim of Three Arrows

Capital. And this adversary proceeding ties the knot and does exactly that. It seeks a declaratory judgment that under the terms of the agreements between the debtors and DCG, DCG took assignment of all of the obligations, burdens and liabilities in connection with the debtors' loans to Three Arrows.

DCG answered that complaint as scheduled on March 11th of this month, and we filed the proposed scheduling order that has been agreed to between the parties on Friday, and that's at Docket Item Number 6. Effectively, Your Honor, the proposed scheduling order contemplates that the

parties would file cross-motions for partial judgment on the pleadings, which would be briefed as set out in the scheduling order between now and May 30th.

behind that, the parties have a difference of reading and interpretation of the agreements that underlie the claims and the Three Arrows Capital claims against the estate. The parties' intent is that those contractual disputes would be resolved through the motions for judgment on the pleadings. The parties have also agreed that pending the resolution of the competing motions for judgment on the pleadings, that discovery on the affirmative defenses asserted by DCG in the answer would be stayed. So unless Your Honor has any questions, we would respectfully request entry of the consensual scheduling order, and we'll be off to the races on our 12(c) motions.

THE COURT: All right. Let me hear from DCG.

MS. ZALKA: Caroline Zalka, from Weil Gotshal, for DCG, Your Honor. Good morning. I'm pleased to report, obviously, that the parties were able to work consensually towards a schedule to propose to the court that made sense for all involved. I look forward to briefing the motion for judgment on the pleadings if the court enters the proposed order.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. That

all sounds fine to me. I appreciate you working together to come up with a schedule, and I haven't seen the proposed order yet. I don't know if it contemplates a particular hearing date. I'm assuming it probably just leaves that open for another time. And that makes sense, just so I can make sure that I have enough time lead up to get familiar with your arguments before we come in. But with that understanding, I am happy to go along with the parties' agreement. Again, I appreciate the efforts to efficiently move the case along. Anyone else we need to discuss on the MR. BAREFOOT: Thank you, Your Honor. Just to answer the question --THE COURT: Sure. MR. BAREFOOT: -- the scheduling order does not propose a hearing date. And we'll consult with Ms. Zalka and propose to reach out to chambers after the briefing is completed. THE COURT: Yeah, that's great. I know I have a slightly different take on that, and I imagine different judges do as well. So I appreciate that. All right. Anything else, Mr. Barefoot, in connection with the adversary complaint? MR. BAREFOOT: Neither the adversary complaint nor the agenda. This concludes for today, Your Honor.

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1	THE COURT: All right. Anything else from DCG?
2	MS. ZALKA: Nothing from DCG, Your Honor.
3	THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Anything else
4	from any other party? All right. And, Mr. Barefoot, I'm
5	assuming that any other dates that you need, you have been
6	in contact with Ms. Ebanks, and we'll steer clear of my much
7	less systematic scheduling approach.
8	MR. BAREFOOT: Understood, Your Honor.
9	THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. With
10	that, good to see you all again, and have a good afternoon.
11	MR. BAREFOOT: Thank you, Your Honor.
12	(Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at
13	12:25 PM)
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Page 49 1 CERTIFICATION 2 3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certified that the foregoing 4 transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. 5 Songa M. deslarshi Hyel 6 7 8 Sonya Ledanski Hyde 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Veritext Legal Solutions 21 330 Old Country Road 22 Suite 300 Mineola, NY 11501 23 24 25 Date: March 21, 2024